



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SYRINGOMYELIA AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: First discovered in 1803, Syringomyelia, also known as SM, is a chronic and progressive disorder of the spinal cord; and
- WHEREAS: MRI imaging of the brain and spinal cord, as well as a comprehensive medical history and physical exams are necessary to diagnose Syringomyelia; and
- WHEREAS: Syringomyelia occurs when fluid found outside the spinal cord and brain enters the interior spinal cord forming a cavity or cyst known as a syrinx. This disorder can cause neurological issues and damage to the spinal cord, resulting in neuropathic pain syndromes, possible paralysis, and other serious and disabling symptoms; and
- WHEREAS: Thousands of men, women, and children in the United States have suffered the widespread physical symptoms associated with Syringomyelia, including moderate to severe pain and complications from spinal cord and spinal nerve damage. Those affected may also experience delays in diagnosis, barriers to access to care, and a shortage of available health care professionals who routinely treat patients with Syringomyelia; and
- WHEREAS: There are currently limited treatment options and no known cure for patients with this disorder as well as a lack of knowledge in the general public and medical community. Early identification of risk, relevant assessment tools, and streamlined reporting guidelines in radiology are all necessary to expedite treatment options for patients to help prevent the onset of permanent irreversible complications; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations including The Worldwide Syringomyelia & Chiari Task Force provide patient-centered education and outreach programs to support and educate the public, families, and medical professionals on this chronic disorder. The organization also works to fund research and provides a voice for all those who suffer from Syringomyelia and Chiari; and
- WHEREAS: During Syringomyelia Awareness Month, we honor the memory of those lost to this disease and encourage citizens to help improve the quality of life for all those affected by this disorder; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as SYRINGOMYELIA AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage citizens to learn more about Syringomyelia throughout the year.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22nd day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Ritty
CHIEF OF STAFF